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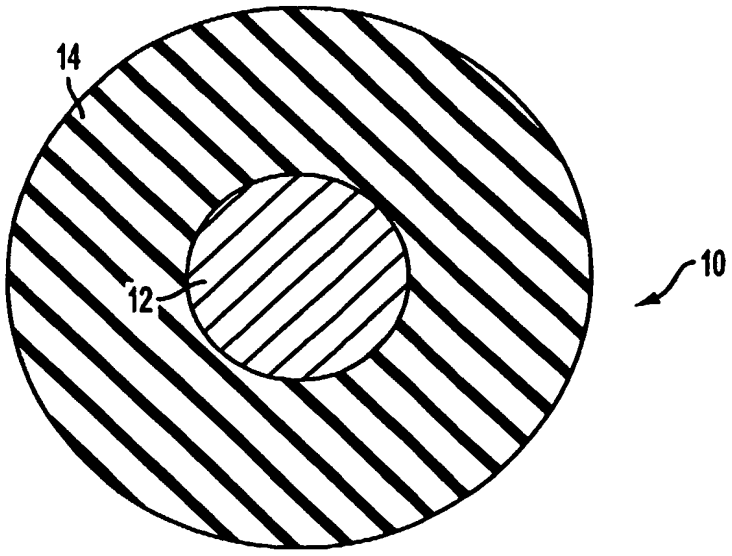
(54) Title: MAGNET WIRE INSULATION COMPRISING A HIGH-TEMPERATURE SULFONE POLYMER BLEND



(57) Abstract: A magnet wire containing a melt processable, thermoplastic resin blend insulative coating developed for use in high temperature electrical insulation systems. The invention relates to a high temperature electrical insulation containing a sulfone polymer blend for particular use with magnet wire. The sulfone polymer blend contains two poly(aryl ether sulfones), such as polyphenylsulfone and polysulfone.

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MAGNET WIRE INSULATION COMPRISING A HIGH-TEMPERATURE SULFONE POLYMER BLEND

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/389,484, filed on June 19, 2002.

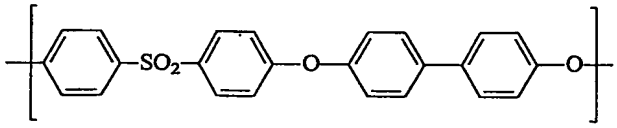
FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a magnet wire comprising a melt processable, thermoplastic resin blend insulative coating developed especially for use in high temperature electrical insulation systems. More particularly, this invention relates to a high temperature electrical insulation system containing sulfone polymers for use with magnet wire and wherein the sulfone polymers comprise a blend of two poly(aryl ether sulfones). The blend exhibits improved electrical insulation and long term thermal and environmental aging stability relative to polysulfone.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Polymeric materials are used in magnet wire insulation coatings. Although thermoset materials are commonly used, magnet wire insulation coatings can include thermoplastics. These polymeric materials are applied as extruded coatings, wrapped films, powder coatings, and solvent-based enamels. Paper is also commonly used as wire wrap insulation.

Examples of thermoplastic polymers used in magnet wire insulation systems include poly(aryl ether sulfones), such as polyphenylsulfone. A magnet wire comprising a polyphenylsulfone resin insulation is commercially available under the tradename Reymag® produced by Hanover Manufacturing Corporation. Polyphenylsulfone is a tough linear polymer that possesses a number of attractive features such as excellent high temperature resistance, good electrical properties, high ductility, good toughness, and very good hydrolytic stability. Polyphenylsulfone is available from Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, under the trademark of Radel® R. It corresponds to the following repeat unit formula:



Polyphenylsulfone (PPSF)

and has a Tg of about 220° C. It is produced by the polycondensation of biphenol with 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyl sulfone as described in Canadian Patent No. 847,963. Polyphenylsulfone is an expensive resin due to the high cost of biphenol.

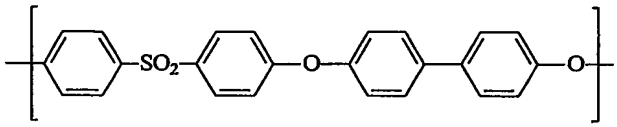
High temperature insulation systems for magnet wire are required in many applications including transformers, motors, generators, solenoids, and relays. Requirements for such products include high efficiency or low dissipation at use temperatures; high continuous use temperatures; resistance to insulating fluids such as a mineral oil, a silicone oil, a vegetable oil, a synthetic oil, and mixtures thereof; and ability to withstand overload conditions. Not only is the magnet wire coating required to provide dielectric insulation, but it also must provide protection against abrasion, mechanical stress, and corrosion. Thus, magnet wire insulation systems have many more stringent requirements over mere dielectric insulation. There is, therefore, a continual need in the art to economically improve the performance of insulation systems for magnet wire.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

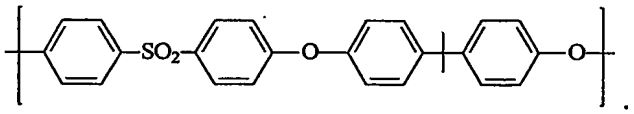
There exists a need in the magnet wire art for high performance insulation coatings that exhibit robust electrical insulation, long term thermal aging stability, and environmental resistance. There exists a need in the magnet wire art to economically produce high performance magnet wire insulation coatings, by reducing the amount of expensive resins used in the insulation coating. Further, there exists a need in the magnet wire art to produce high performance insulation coatings containing minimal amounts of consumable performance and stability additives. In addition, there exists a need in the magnet wire art to be able to economically and reliably insulate the wire by extrusion coating, solvent coating, film wrapping or powder coating.

In addition, there exists a need in the electrical device art for an electrical device comprising insulated magnet wire that can withstand long term exposure to high temperature. There further exists a need in the electrical device art for an electrical device comprising insulated magnet wire that has superior chemical resistance during long term exposure to oils.

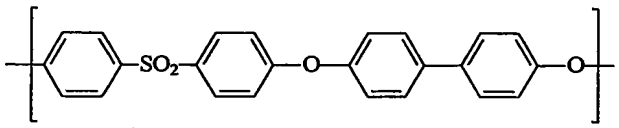
These and other needs are met by certain embodiments of the present invention, that provide an insulated magnet wire comprising a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating, wherein the insulation coating comprises a blend of polyphenylsulfone (PPSF) and polysulfone (PSF), wherein the PPSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



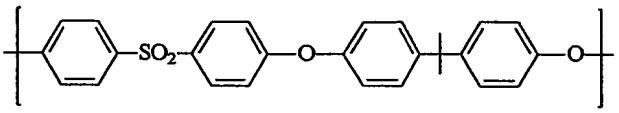
and the PSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



The earlier-stated needs are further met by an electrical device comprising an insulated magnet wire comprising a metallic wire and a polymer composition insulating coating, wherein the insulation coating comprises a blend of polyphenylsulfone (PPSF) and polysulfone (PSF), wherein the PPSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



and the PSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



The earlier-stated needs are further met by certain embodiments of the present invention that provide an insulated magnet wire comprising a metallic magnet wire and a

polymer composition insulation coating comprising from about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PPSF and about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

Additional advantages and aspects of the present invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description, wherein embodiments of the present invention are shown and described, simply by way of illustration of the best mode contemplated for practicing the present invention. As will be described, the present invention is capable of other and different embodiments, and its several details are susceptible to modification in various obvious respects, all without departing from the spirit of the present invention. Accordingly, the description is to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as limitative.

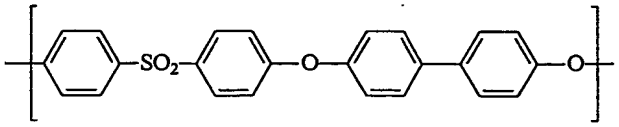
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an insulated magnet wire according to an embodiment of the present invention.

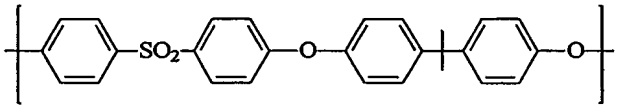
FIG. 2 illustrates an electrical device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides magnet wire with a robust electrical insulation coating. The present invention provides a high performance poly(aryl ether sulfone) blend which exhibits improved electrical insulation and long term thermal aging stability. The present invention allows for the economical production of a magnet wire comprising a high performance poly(aryl ether sulfone) blend coating with optional amounts of performance and stability additives. The present invention allows for the production of an insulated magnet wire with a reduced amount of an expensive resin, such as PPSF, which retains the high performance properties of PPSF. Coupled with all the above benefits, the present invention allows for the economical fabrication of metallic magnet wire with a thermoplastic blend containing poly(aryl ether sulfones). These benefits are provided by an insulated magnet wire comprising a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating, said polymer composition insulation coating comprising a blend of polyphenylsulfone (PPSF) and polysulfone (PSF). The PPSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



and the PSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



PPSF is available from commercial sources, including Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, under the trademark of Radel® R. Suitable PPSF for certain embodiments of the present invention has a Tg of about 220 °C. PPSF is produced by the polycondensation of biphenol with 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyl sulfone as described in Canadian Patent No. 847,963, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein. In certain embodiments, the PPSF can be a copolymer wherein up to less than 50 mole % of the biphenol residue structural units are substituted with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from biphenol. The aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from biphenol are selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol (bisphenol A), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylether (bisphenol O), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone (bisphenol S), 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) benzene, and hydroquinone.

PSF is available from commercial sources, including from Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, under the trademark of UDEL®. Suitable PSF for certain embodiments of the present invention and has a Tg of about 185 °C. PSF is made via the nucleophilic polycondensation of bisphenol-A di-sodium salt with 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyl sulfone, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,108,837, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein. In certain embodiments, the PSF can be a copolymer wherein up to less than 50 mole % of the bisphenol A residue structural units are substituted with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from bisphenol A. The aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from bisphenol A are selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylether (bisphenol O), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone (bisphenol S), 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) benzene, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl (biphenol) and hydroquinone.

Properties of the PPSF/PSF blend provide benefits in the end-use applications of magnet wire. For example, PPSF/PSF blend coated magnet wire can be wound faster with fewer insulation tears than paper wrapped wire. The required insulation thickness is generally less than that required for paper wrapped wire which can yield smaller windings. Moreover, because the PPSF/PSF blend has a low equilibrium moisture content, magnet wire coils can be dried quickly and do not contribute to hydrolysis of insulating oils. In addition, the PPSF/PSF blend can perform under higher temperatures and more rigorous conditions in oil environments thereby reducing susceptibility to damage under overload conditions. The end result is increased reliability and longer service time. Furthermore, PPSF/PSF blend coated magnet wire uses a reduced amount of expensive PPSF resin, while retaining the high performance properties of PPSF required for magnet wire applications.

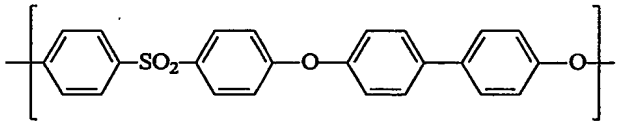
In FIG. 1, an insulated magnet wire 10 according to an embodiment of the present invention is depicted. Insulated magnet wire 10 comprises magnet wire 12 which can be comprised of a copper, aluminum and the like. Magnet wire 12 is coated with insulation coating 14 that is applied to magnet wire 12 to provide a continuous coating.

Other embodiments of the present invention include an insulated magnet wire comprising a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises from about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PPSF and about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. In certain embodiments of the present invention the insulated magnet wire comprises a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises greater than 50 wt. % PPSF based on the total polymer weight. In other certain embodiments of the present invention the insulated magnet wire comprises a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises from about 30 wt. % to about 70 wt. % PPSF and about 30 wt. % to about 70 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. In other certain embodiments of the present invention the insulated magnet wire comprises a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises from about 40 wt. % to about 60 wt. % PPSF and about 40 wt. % to about 60 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. Other certain embodiments of the present invention include a magnet wire composition comprising a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating comprising about 70 wt. % PPSF and about 30 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. Other embodiments of the present invention include a magnet wire comprising a metallic magnet wire and a polymer

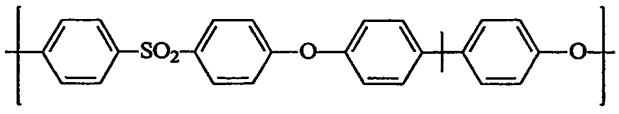
composition insulation coating comprising about 55 wt. % PPSF and about 45 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

The PPSF/PSF blend of the present invention, may optionally include reinforcing filler, fiber, pigments, additives, and the like. Representative fibers which may serve as reinforcing media include glass fibers, asbestos, synthetic polymeric fibers, aluminum silicate fibers, wollastonite, rock wool fibers, etc. Representative filler and other materials include glass, calcium silicate, silica, clays, talc, mica; pigments such as carbon black, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, iron oxide, cadmium red and iron blue; polymers such as polyethersulfone; and other additives such as, alumina trihydrate, sodium aluminum carbonate, and barium ferrite. Additional additives commonly employed in the magnet wire art such as thermal stabilizers, ultraviolet light stabilizers, plasticizers, and the like, may be included. Titanium dioxide and zinc oxide pigments are well suited for use in certain embodiments of the present invention.

Other certain embodiments of the present invention include a method for providing an insulated magnet wire with a polymer composition insulation coating, the method comprising the step of coating a polymer composition insulation on a metallic magnet wire. The polymer composition insulation coating comprises a blend of polyphenylsulfone (PPSF) and polysulfone (PSF), wherein the PPSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



and the PSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



Other embodiments of the present invention include a method of providing an insulated magnet wire with a polymer composition insulation coating, wherein the insulation coating comprises from about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PPSF and about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. In certain embodiments of the present

invention the insulated magnet wire comprises a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises greater than 50 wt. % PPSF based on the total polymer weight. In other certain embodiments of the present invention the insulated magnet wire comprises a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises from about 30 wt. % to about 70 wt. % PPSF and about 30 wt. % to about 70 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. In other certain embodiments of the present invention the insulated magnet wire comprises a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating that comprises from about 40 wt. % to about 60 wt. % PPSF and about 40 wt. % to about 60 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. Other certain embodiments of the present invention include a method of providing an insulated magnet wire with a polymer composition insulation coating, wherein the insulation coating comprises about 70 wt. % PPSF and about 30 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight. Other embodiments of the present invention include a method of providing an insulated magnet wire with a polymer composition insulation coating, wherein the insulation coating comprises about 55 wt. % PPSF and about 45 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

Additional advantages realized through the use of present invention's insulated magnet wire is the ability to fabricate insulated magnet wire using multiple techniques. Insulation can be applied by wrapping plastic extruded or solvent cast film. It can also be applied by solvent coating like other common enamels or by known powder coating techniques. In the case of solvent coating, an oven step is used only for the purpose of driving off solvent rather than curing and driving off solvent.

The most efficient and cost effective method is to melt extrude the coating directly on the magnet wire. In melt extrusion fabrication, solvent recovery systems are not required and curing steps are optional. Extruders required to provide the necessary throughput for wire coating applications are quite small and economical to install. The excellent thermal stability of the PPSF/PSF insulation coating also allows melt extrusion processing of magnet wire at fabrication temperatures up to 400° C. Magnet wire can be prepared either by conforming, drawing, or rolling. The PPSF/PSF insulation coating of the present invention may be used with round and shaped aluminum and copper wire of varying size.

Other embodiments of the present invention include forming the magnet wire and then coating the wire by a metal conforming line and melt extrusion coating line in tandem.

A variety of round and rectangular wire sizes are produced via this technique. The metallic magnet wire is particularly suitable for use in oil-filled transformers.

Other certain embodiments of the present invention include a method for providing an insulated magnet wire comprising the PPSF/PSF polymer composition insulation coating. The method includes the step of melt extruding. The melt extrusion process comprises providing a supply of metal feed stock and continuously feeding the feed stock into a rotary extrusion press and continuously forming the magnet wire. The magnet wire can be formed in tandem with the extrusion operation or it can be formed in a separate step and heated prior to the polymer composition coating. The metal wire can be formed as described above with a rotary extrusion press, or it may be drawn. It may also be formed by rolling or flattening round wire into a rectangular shape. The extruded magnet wire is moved through extrusion die at a set speed. In certain embodiments of the present invention, sulfone polymer-based insulation coating of the present invention is extruded using a tubing or semi-tubing technique which involves a crosshead assembly and a tip and die configuration that contains flow channels designed to maximize the uniformity of the coating on shaped magnet wire. The tube is extruded around and spaced from the extruded magnet wire, and the tube is extruded such that the thickness of the polymer material is reduced or drawn down before it contacts the extruded magnet wire. A vacuum is provided between the extruded magnet wire and the polymeric material being extruded thereby causing atmospheric pressure to progressively press the extruded polymeric material into contact with the extruded magnet wire. Application of the polymer through means of pressure extrusion technique may also be suitable. In pressure extrusion, metal wire is brought into contact with molten polymer within the crosshead die to form the coating and no tube is extruded. The magnet wire is extruded in a heated condition, but the temperature is controlled to a suitable range for application of the polymeric material to the wire. The temperature is selected to control the cooling rate of the polymer on the wire which in turn can minimize stress in the coating and maximize adhesion of the coating to the magnet wire. The particular metal of the magnet wire is not critical and may include any commonly used electrically conductive material including, for example, aluminum, aluminum-based alloys, copper, and copper-based alloys.

Other embodiments of the present invention include using the insulated magnet wire of the present invention in high temperature electrical insulation systems. Suitable high temperature electrical insulation systems include electrical devices, including voltage

transformers, motors, generators, alternators, solenoids, relays, and the like. In FIG. 2, transformer 20, according to an embodiment of the present invention is depicted. Transformer 20 comprises two coils 21a, 21b of insulated magnet wire, which are wrapped around core 30. Transformer 20 can be a step-up transformer, wherein coil 21a will be a primary coil (i.e. has an electric current passed through it) and coil 21b will be a secondary coil (has an electric current induced within it). Alternatively, transformer 20 can be a step-down transformer, wherein coil 21a will be a secondary coil (has an electric current induced within it) and coil 21b will be a primary coil (i.e. has an electric current passed through it). In either embodiment, core 30 is a magnet comprised of iron, or the like.

Properties of the PPSF/PSF blend, Example 1, are depicted in Table 1, and are compared with the PPSF resin, Control 1. The PPSF/PSF blend absorbs slightly less moisture than PPSF and exhibits greater melt stability than PPSF. Melt stability is characterized by measuring the ratio of melt viscosity measured at 50 reciprocal seconds after exposure to 410°C for 40 minutes to the melt viscosity measured after 10 minutes. The PPSF/PSF blend exhibits a viscosity ratio of 1.3 versus 1.5 which is typical of PPSF resins. Example 1 is a 70 wt. % / 30 wt. % based on the total polymer weight RADEL® R PPSF / UDEL® PSF blend. As demonstrated, the PPSF/PSF blend has comparable superior flame resistance, mechanical strength, and minimum moisture absorption, as the PPSF resin, Control 1. These properties demonstrate the compatibility of the PPSF/PSF blend with magnet wire applications. Further, the PPSF/PSF blend exhibits superior properties over the PSF resin, Comparative Example 1. The supertough behavior of the PPSF/PSF blend is evidenced by the high notched Izod impact strength. Further the PPSF/PSF blend exhibits superior thermal properties over the PSF resin, as evidenced by the heat deflection temperature results in Table 1. It is noted that the glass transition temperature for the PPSF/PSF blend is 185/220 due to the immiscible blend of the two polymers (i.e. one glass transition temperature will occur for each polymer).

TABLE 1 Selected Properties of Polyphenylsulfone and a Polyphenylsulfone Blend

Physical	Method	Units	Comparative Example 1 PSF	Control 1 PPSF	Example 1 70 wt. % PPSF/ 30 wt. % PSF Blend
Moisture Absorption	ASTM	-			
After 24 hrs	D-570	%	0.3	0.37	0.30
At Equilibrium	D-570	%	0.6	1.1	0.95
Specific Gravity	D-792		1.24	1.29	1.28
Mechanical					
Tensile Strength	D-638	MPa	70	70	70
Elongation at Break	D-638	%	50-100	90	60
Flexural Strength	D-790	MPa	105	105	105
Notched Izod Impact	D-256	J/m	69	694	265
Un-notched Izod	D-256	J/m	0 Breaks	0 Breaks	0 Breaks
Thermal					
Glass Transition Temp.		°C	185	220	185/220
Heat Deflection Temp.	D-648	°C	174	207	200
Electrical					
Dielectric Constant after 48 hours of conditioning at 23°C and 50% RH					
@ 1 MHz	D-150	-	3.1	3.45	3.40
Flammability					
Limiting Oxygen Index	D-2863	%	26	38	36

Relevant performance characteristics of aluminum wire coated with the PPSF/PSF insulation blend were evaluated and the results are given in Table 2. It can be seen in Table 2 that wire coated with the PPSF/PSF blend exhibits good flexibility, adhesion, and elongation, comparable to aluminum wire coated with the more expensive PPSF resin. The PPSF/PSF magnet wire insulation is also resistant to heat shock, and can maintain dielectric strength at temperatures up to 200 °C. At temperatures of 200 °C, the dissipation remains at about 0.007 which is far lower than many polyvinylformal based resins and paper. Thus, the magnet wires coated with the present invention's insulative coating are suitable for use with high temperature systems.

TABLE 2 NEMA MW 1000 Quality Tests of Magnet Wire Using Test Methods NEMA MW 1000/ASTM D-1676. All measurements made by Eltek International Laboratories on rectangular aluminum magnet wire.

Test	Control 1	Example 1
Aluminum Bare Wire		
Width	0.3253 in	0.3251 in
Thickness	0.1137 in	0.1138 in
Overall Dimensions		
Width	0.3367 in	0.3349 in
Thickness	0.1208 in	0.1201 in
Increase in Dimension		
Width	0.1140 in	0.0098 in
Thickness	0.0071 in	0.0063 in
Average Film Build		
Width	0.0057 in	0.0049 in
Thickness	0.0036 in	0.0032 in
Elongation to Break	20% (Rectangular Wire) 35% (Round Wire)	33% (Rectangular Wire)
Flatwise Bend	No cracks visible in the film coating	No cracks visible in the filr coating
Egdewise Bend	No cracks visible in the film coating	No cracks visible in the filr coating
Windability	No cracks visible in the film coating	No cracks visible in the filr coating
Heat Shock	No cracks visible in the film coating after conditioning at 260°C	No cracks visible in the filr coating after conditioning a 175°C
Thermoplastic Flow	265°C	245°C
Breakdown Voltage after 48 hours of conditioning at 23°C and 50% RH		
23°C	10.88kV	9.30kV
150°C	8.96kV	9.32kV
180°C	8.79kV	8.48kV
200°C	8.90kV	7.07kV
Dissipation after 48 hours of conditioning at 23°C and 50% RH		
23°C	0.0022	0.0016
150°C	0.0007	0.0008
180°C	0.0021	0.0042
200°C	0.0042	0.0069

The insulation coating of the present invention also retains properties after over 5 months of aging in hot transformer oil, and the results are given in Table 3. The wires were

coated with resin by drawing them through a melt-flow apparatus. By passing the wire through the die, and keeping the apparatus primed with resin pellets, a coating was passed through the die and on to the bare wire. For each coated wire, a length was wrapped around a rod 1/4" in diameter, and 1/16" in diameter to resemble a spring. Two straight lengths of wire at approximately 2-3" were also cut. The wires were then placed into a glass-lined Parr reactor with sufficient transformer oil to submerge the wires. The reactor was placed in an oven and the temperature was set to 150 °C. The wires were subjected to the heated oil in the reactor at a temperature of about 150 °C ± 1 °C. The reactor was periodically removed from the oven, cooled to room temperature, and the wire samples were removed from the reactor for evaluation. Following each evaluation the wires were re-submerged in the oil contained in the glass-lined Parr reactor. Evaluations were taken at different intervals, and the results are summarized in Table 3.

The PPSF resin (RADEL® R) does not exhibit any failure in this hot oil environment. Moreover, it is evident that the resin blend (PPSF/PSF) of the present invention did not exhibit stress-cracking behavior even after a period of 5 months. The results are unexpected in view of the proximity of the hot oil environment temperature to the glass transition temperatures (Tg) of the PSF contained in the blend and the increased environmental sensitivity that might be expected for the PSF at this temperature. The PSF resin has a lower glass transition temperature (Tg = 185 °C), compared to the PPSF resin (Tg = 220 °C). Further, the test sample containing the PSF resin (UDEL®) exhibited stress-cracking behavior after exposure to the silicone oil at 150 °C after only one week. However, the resin blend (70 wt. % PPSF / 30 wt. % PSF) of the present invention did not exhibit stress-cracking behavior during the hot oil aging experiment. Thus, the PPSF/PSF resin blend used in the present invention offers high performance properties that are characteristic of the PPSF resin.

TABLE 3 - Hot Transformer Oil Experiment

RESIN	DAY 1	DAY 20	DAY 48	DAY 56	DAY 97	DAY 145	DAY 156
PPSF	Insulated wire submerged in oil	Clean and free of cracks and crazing - no significant change	Same as Day 20 - no significant change	Same as Day 48 - no significant change	Same as Day 56 - no significant change	Same as Day 97 - no significant change	Same as Day 145 - no significant change
70 wt. % PPSF / 30 wt. % PSF Blend	Insulated wire submerged in oil	Clean and free of cracks and crazing - no significant change	Same as Day 20 - no significant change	Same as Day 48 - no significant change	Same as Day 56 - no significant change	Same as Day 97 - no significant change	Same as Day 145 - no significant change
PSF	Insulated wire submerged in oil	Straight wires crazed and springs have cracks	Same as Day 20 - no significant change	Same as Day 48 - no significant change	Same as Day 56 - no significant change	Same as Day 97 - no significant change	Same as Day 145 - no significant change

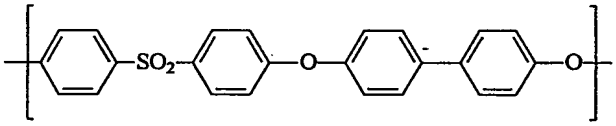
The present invention enjoys industrial applicability in the production of insulated magnet wire for use with high temperature electrical insulation systems. The present invention is particularly applicable in the production of insulated magnet wire having a polymer insulation coating for use with high temperature electrical insulation systems. Further, the present invention is particularly applicable in the production of magnetic wire having a poly(aryl ether sulfone) blend insulative coating, exhibiting robust electrical

insulation and long term thermal aging stability along with improved economics over the current art.

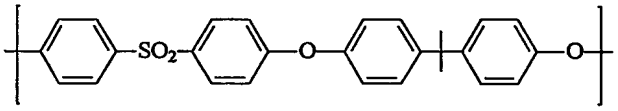
Only the preferred embodiment of the present invention and a few examples of its versatility are shown and described in the present disclosure. They should not be construed to limit the scope of the claims. It is understood by one of ordinary skill in this art that the present invention is capable of use in various other combinations and environments and is susceptible of changes or modifications within the scope of the inventive concept as expressed herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An insulated magnet wire comprising a metallic magnet wire and a polymer composition insulation coating, said polymer composition insulation coating comprising a blend of a polyphenylsulfone (PPSF) and a polysulfone (PSF), wherein the PPSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



and the PSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



2. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 1, wherein the insulation coating comprises from about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PPSF and about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

3. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 2, wherein the insulation coating comprises greater than 50 wt. % PPSF based on the total polymer weight.

4. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 1, wherein the insulation coating comprises about 70 wt. % PPSF and about 30 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

5. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 1, wherein the insulation coating comprises about 55 wt. % PPSF and about 45 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

6. The insulated magnet wire according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the insulation coating further comprises at least one reinforcing filler, fiber, pigment and/or additive.

7. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 6, wherein the fiber is selected from the group consisting of glass fiber, asbestos, synthetic polymeric fiber, aluminum silicate fiber, wollastonite and rock wool fiber.

8. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 6, wherein the reinforcing filler is selected from the group consisting of glass, calcium silicate, silica, clays, talc and mica.

9. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 6, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, iron oxide, cadmium red and iron blue.

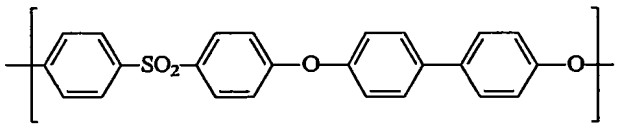
10. The insulated magnet wire according to claim 9, wherein the pigment is titanium dioxide or zinc oxide.

11. The insulated magnet wire according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the PPSF can be a copolymer wherein up to less than 50 mole % of the biphenol residue structural units are substituted with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from biphenol, and wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from biphenol are selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylether, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone, 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) benzene, and hydroquinone.

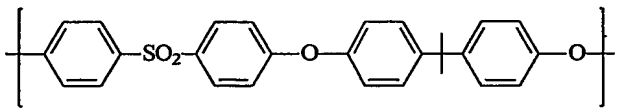
12. The insulated magnet wire according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the PSF can be a copolymer wherein up to less than 50 mole % of the bisphenol A residue structural units are substituted with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from bisphenol A, and wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from bisphenol A are selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-

dihydroxydiphenylether, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone, 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) benzene, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl and hydroquinone.

13. A method for providing an insulated magnet wire with a polymer composition insulation coating, said method comprising the step of coating a polymer composition insulation on a bare metallic magnet wire, said polymer composition insulation coating comprising a blend of a polyphenylsulfone (PPSF) and a polysulfone (PSF), wherein the PPSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



and the PSF comprises the following structural repeat unit:



14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the insulation coating comprises from about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PPSF and about 20 wt. % to about 80 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the insulation coating comprises greater than 50 wt. % PPSF based on the total polymer weight.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein the insulation coating comprises about 70 wt. % PPSF and about 30 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein the insulation coating comprises about 55 wt. % PPSF and about 45 wt. % PSF based on the total polymer weight.

18. The method according to any of claims 13 to 17, wherein the coating step is selected from the group consisting of melt extruding, solvent coating, powder coating and film wrapping.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the coating step is melt extruding.

20. The method according to any of claims 13 to 19, wherein the metallic magnet wire is preheated prior to extruding the insulation coating on the metallic magnet wire.

21. The method according to any of claims 13 to 19, wherein the insulation coating is melt filtered prior to it being extruded on the metallic magnet wire.

22. The method according to any of claims 13 to 19, wherein said melt extruding step is free of solvent.

23. The method according to any of claims 13 to 19, further comprising an optional baking means to cure said coating.

24. The method according to claim 23, further comprising cooling the cured coating on said metallic magnet wire.

25. The method according to any of claims 13 to 24, wherein the PPSF can be a copolymer wherein up to less than 50 mole % of the biphenol residue structural units are substituted with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from biphenol, and wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from biphenol are selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylether, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone, 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) benzene, and hydroquinone.

26. The method according to any of claims 13 to 24, wherein the PSF can be a copolymer wherein up to less than 50 mole % of the bisphenol A residue structural units are substituted with one or more aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from

bisphenol A, and wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound residues other than those from bisphenol A are selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylether, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone, 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) benzene, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl and hydroquinone.

27. The use of an insulated magnet wire according to any of claims 1 to 12, in a high temperature electrical insulation system.

28. The use of an insulated magnet wire according to claim 27, wherein the high temperature electrical insulation system is selected from the group consisting of voltage transformers, motors, generators, alternators, solenoids, and relays.

29. Use of an insulated magnet wire obtained by the process according to any of claims 13 to 26, in a high temperature electrical insulation system.

30. The use of an insulated magnet wire according to either claim 27 or 29, wherein the high temperature insulation system is selected from the group consisting of voltage transformers, motors, generators, alternators, solenoids, and relays.

31. The use of an insulated magnet wire according to claim 27 or 29, wherein the metallic magnet wire is used in contact with an insulating fluid selected from the group consisting of a mineral oil, a silicone oil, a vegetable oil, a synthetic oil, and mixtures thereof.

32. An electrical device comprising the insulated magnet wire according to any of claims 1 to 12.

33. The electrical device according to claim 32, wherein the electrical device is selected from the group consisting of voltage transformers, motors, generators, alternators, solenoids, and relays.

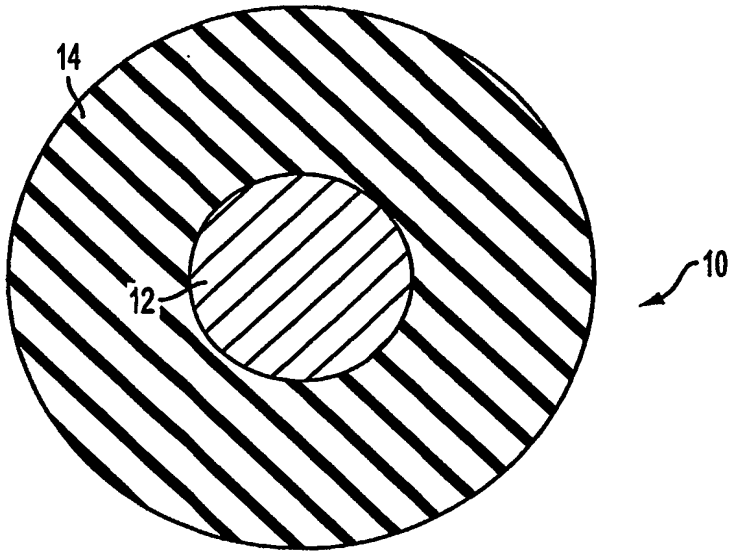


FIG. 1

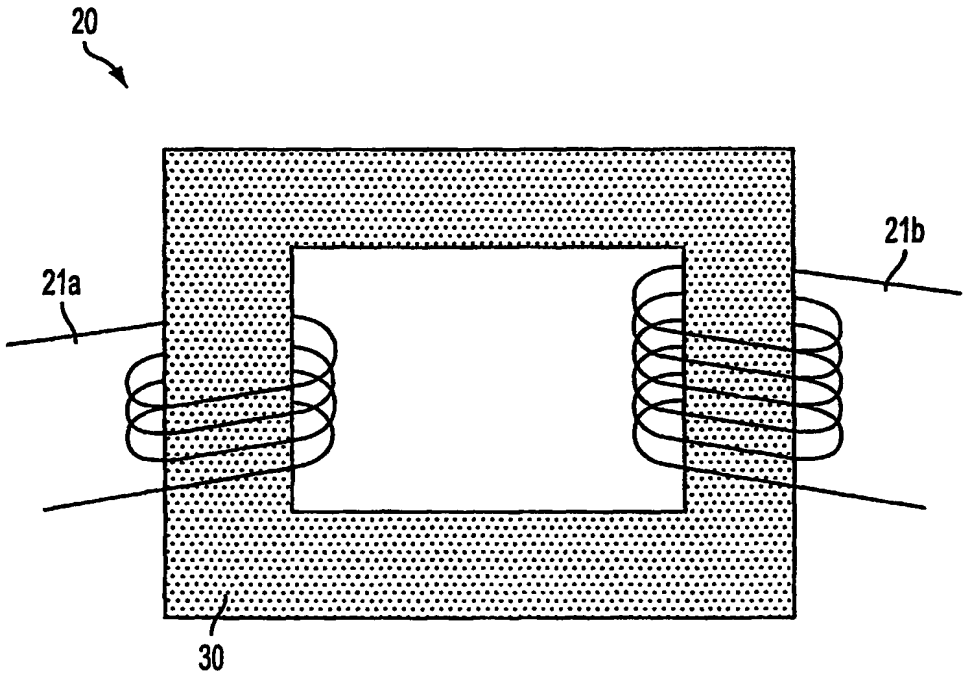


FIG. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/[redacted]3/19318

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C08L81/06 H01B3/30 H01B13/14 H01B3/42

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C08L H01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	US 4 020 046 A (KING TERENCE ET AL) 26 April 1977 (1977-04-26) column 4, line 10 - line 42 column 6, line 13 - line 16	1-33
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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
2 September 2003	09/09/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Russell, G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat[redacted] Application No
PCT/[redacted]03/19318

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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International Application No
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